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In the Claims:

1.   (Previously Presented) A method of coding a multi-media object using an encoder which is receivable of the multi-media object from an input unit or object generation unit and generates a bit-stream which is subsequently reproducible by a reproduction unit or decoder to obtain the multi-media object, the method comprising:

coding the object to obtain a bit-stream having multiple coded parts, each coded part including a header and a data part,

generating quality information which indicates distortion of the object when the bit-stream is truncated during decoding thereof in relation to the data parts of the coded parts of the bit-stream, and

adding the quality information into the headers of the coded parts of the bit-stream such that the quality information is situated throughout the bit-stream.

2.   (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coding step is a scalable coding step to obtain a scalable bit-stream.

3.   (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the quality information relates to an object reproduction quality.

4.   (Original) A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the quality information is based on a signal to noise ratio value.

5.   (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein the quality information is in the form of quality tags which are added at given locations in the bit-stream, the quality tags indicating distortion of the object when the bit-stream is truncated just after (or alternatively just before) the given location in the bit-stream.

6.   (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the quality information is incorporated in existing fields of a given scalable coding standard.

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7.   (Original) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the scalable bit-stream includes several layers and wherein respective layers include respective quality information.

8.   (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the bit-stream is encrypted and the quality information is unencrypted.

9.   (Currently Amended) A method of controlling at least one bit-stream representing a multi-media object in which bit-stream quality information has been added into headers of coded parts of the bit-stream situated before data parts of the coded parts, the quality information indicating distortion of the object in relation to a given position in (or a given part of) the bit-stream, the method comprising:

receiving the at least one bit-stream,

extracting the quality information from the headers of the coded parts of the bit-stream,

transcoding or truncating the at least one bit-stream in the case a desired combination of bit-rate and distortion of the at least one bit-stream differs from a current combination of bit-rate and distortion of the at least one received bit-stream,

providing the at least one bit-stream at the desired combination of bit-rate and distortion, and

processing the at least one bit-stream in consideration of the quality information obtained from the header of one or more coded parts of the bit-stream near the truncation point.

10.   (Previously Presented) A method of transmitting at least one multi-media object using a transmitter which generates and transmits a bit-stream which is subsequently reproducible by a reproduction unit or decoder to obtain the multi-media object, the method comprising:

coding the object to obtain the bit-stream having multiple coded parts, each coded part including a header and a data part,

generating quality information which indicates distortion of the object when the bit-stream is truncated during decoding thereof in relation to the data parts of the coded parts of the bit-stream,

adding the quality information into the headers of the coded parts of the bit-stream such that the quality information is situated throughout the bit-stream, and

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transmitting the bit-stream in which the quality information has been added.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of receiving at least one bit-stream representing a multi-media object in which bit-stream quality information has been added into headers of coded parts of the bit-stream situated before data parts of the coded parts, the quality information indicating distortion of the object in relation to a given position in (or a given part of) the bit-stream, the method comprising:

extracting the quality information from the headers of the coded parts of the bit-stream,

transcoding or truncating the at least one bit-stream in the case a desired combination of bit-rate and distortion of the at least one bit-stream differs from a current combination of bit-rate and distortion of the at least one received bit-stream,

providing the at least one bit-stream at the desired combination of bit-rate and distortion,

decoding the at least one bit-stream at the desired combination of bit-rate and distortion, and

processing the at least one bit-stream in consideration of the quality information obtained from the header of one or more coded parts of the bit-stream near the truncation point.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of receiving at least one bit-stream representing a multi-media object in which bit-stream quality information has been added into headers of coded parts of the bit-stream situated before data parts of the coded parts and enabling the multi-media object to be reproduced by a reproduction unit, the quality information indicating distortion of the object in relation to a given position in (or a given part of) the bit-stream upon a truncation, the method comprising:

extracting the quality information from the headers of the coded parts of the bit-stream;

decoding the bit-stream to obtain a decoded multi-media object; and

processing the multi-media object in dependence on the extracted quality information obtained from the header of one or more coded parts of the bit-stream whereby the processed multi-media object is reproducible by the reproduction unit.

13. (Previously Presented) A device for coding a multi-media object, the device comprising:

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means for coding the object to obtain a bit-stream having multiple coded parts, each coded part including a header and a data part,

means for generating quality information which indicates distortion of the object when the bit-stream is truncated during decoding thereof in relation to the data parts of the coded parts of the bit-stream, and

means for adding the quality information into the headers of the coded parts of the bit-stream such that the quality information is situated throughout the bit-stream.

14.   (Original) A transmitter comprising a device as claimed in claim 13.

15.   (Currently Amended) A controller for controlling at least one bit-stream representing a multi-media object in which bit-stream representing a multi-media object in which bit-stream quality information has been added into headers of coded parts of the bit-stream situated before data parts of the coded parts, the quality information indicating distortion of the object in relation to a given position in (or a given part of) the bit-stream, the controller comprising:

means for receiving the at least one bit-stream,

means for extracting the quality information from the headers of the coded parts of the bit-stream,

means for truncating the at least one bit-stream in the case a desired combination of bit-rate and distortion of the at least one bit-stream differs from a current combination of bit-rate and distortion of the at least one received bit-stream,

means for providing the at least one bit-stream at the desired combination of bit-rate and distortion, and

means for processing the at least one bit-stream in consideration of the quality information obtained from the header of one or more coded parts of the bit-stream near the truncation point.

16.   (Original) A receiver comprising a controller as claimed in claim 15.

17.   (Currently Amended) A receiver for receiving at least one bit-stream representing a multi-media object in which bit-stream quality information has been added into headers of coded

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parts of the bit-stream situated before data parts of the coded parts, the quality information indicating distortion of the object in relation to a given position in ~~(or a given part of)~~ the bit-stream <u>upon a truncation,</u> the receiver comprising:

      means for extracting the quality information from the headers of the coded parts of the bit-stream;

      means for decoding the bit-stream to obtain a decoded multi-media object; and

      means for processing the multi-media object in dependence on the extracted quality information obtained from the header of one or more coded parts of the bit-stream.

18.   (Original) A multiplexer or network node comprising a controller as claimed in claim 15.

19.   (Currently Amended) A <u>computer readable storage medium including a</u> bit-stream representing a multimedia object in which bit-stream quality information has been added, the bit-stream having multiple coded parts generated and transmitted by a transmitter and subsequently processable to enable reproduction of the multi-media object by a reproduction unit, each coded part having a header and a data part, the quality information indicating distortion of the object when the bit-stream is truncated during decoding thereof in relation to the data parts of the coded parts of the bit-stream, the quality information being present in the header of the coded parts of the bit-stream such that the quality information is situated throughout the bit-stream.

20.   (Canceled)

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